

Child Care Grants

October 2001

BACKGROUND

The 2001 Legislature provided \$150,000 in state funds for child care grants for the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) to distribute through competitive application to public baccalaureate institutions in the 2001-2003 biennium. A separate pool of funds was provided for community and technical colleges.

This is the second biennium for these grants. The HECB approved a similar amount of funds to three institutions in December of 1999:

- Central Washington University -- \$70,906;
- Eastern Washington University -- \$29,025; and
- Washington State University -- \$50,069.

All of these grants were distributed last biennium, and the programs were implemented.

Applications for matching grants for the current biennium were due to the HECB by Oct. 15, 2001. The \$150,000 provided for these grants is to be divided equally in each of the two fiscal years at \$75,000 per fiscal year. No single institution may receive more than half the funds appropriated for this program.

APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

HECB staff established a review committee of individuals representing the Washington Association for the Education of Young Children, the Child Care Coordinating Committee, and the Child Care Resource and Referral Network, together with several HECB staff. This committee met Oct. 22 to review and evaluate the applications received, and to make recommendations for project awards. Below are the review committee's recommendations:

Central Washington University \$69,000

The review committee recommends that the board authorize \$69,000 in grant funds (\$34,500 in FY 2002 and \$34,500 in FY 2003) to support Central Washington University's proposals to enhance infant-toddler care provided through Child Care Central, one of the university's child care programs, and add evening/weekend care through the campus' Early Childhood Learning Center. This award would fund the entire proposal, except for \$3,000 requested in each year for indirect costs. The maximum amount available to any one institution under this grant program is \$37,500 for each of the next two years.

With help from a child care grant provided by the HECB in the last biennium, CWU opened slots for infants and toddlers in June 2000. These slots were quickly filled, and then expanded to a

total of 32 by fall 2001. These slots serve a pressing need for students with young children. The recommended funding will allow the infant-toddler program to continue and become programmatically and fiscally stable on a long-term basis. The program also will provide parenting education for low-income students.

The second major element of this request is to expand the hours of the Early Childhood Learning Center to include evenings and weekends. Students have classes, projects and other activities that require child-care services be available at these times. Upon receipt of this grant, CWU will initiate evening and weekend child-care services starting winter quarter 2002. In a recent survey of parents, more than 70 percent indicated evening and weekend care is important to them. The child-care staff to be employed in this program will possess the training and qualifications and be paid consistent with state licensing requirements.

Washington State University/Pullman**To Be Determined**

The review committee recommends that the board direct staff to continue working with Washington State University (WSU) on a proposal to enhance evening child care services and continue the parent cooperative program.

WSU currently provides on-campus evening child-care program for 124 children to accommodate students taking evening labs and classes. This drop-in evening program currently is the only one available in the community. The university is seeking the state grant to keep parent fees affordable for students. Ongoing discussions center around the staffing plan for this program.

WSU also operates a parent cooperative program in which student parents may work at the Children's Center in exchange for a reduction of their child-care costs. This opportunity benefits parents both financially and through the training and experience they gain working in a supervised child-care setting.

The Evergreen State College**To Be Determined**

The review committee recommends that the board also direct staff to continue working with The Evergreen State College (TESC) on a proposal to enhance student teacher training, provide parent education materials, and provide furnishings for both a parent support area and for a planned new child development center.

The grant request would provide additional student teacher training of 11 hours per quarter. The college would purchase books, videos, materials and a TV/VCR to establish a parent training area. The college plans to open the new center in winter quarter of 2003, and will double the capacity of the child care program. The school is requesting grant funding for furniture, play area and activity equipment, furnishings for the toddler and pre-school rooms, and student-parent desks and chairs.

NEXT STEPS

Following the board's action, an interagency agreement between the HECB and Central Washington University will be executed, spelling out the terms under which the grant is provided, including reporting requirements. The HECB executive director and the chief financial officer of the university will sign the agreements.

Discussions will continue with Washington State University and The Evergreen State College, and recommendations for grant awards will be brought to the board for its consideration at the December 2001 meeting. If the board approves these awards, interagency agreements will be executed. Fiscal year 2002 funds for the approved child-care programs will become available as soon as possible after the interagency agreements are executed. Second-year grant funds will become available as soon as possible after July 2002, upon satisfactory completion by the institutions of first-year progress reports.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-34

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) has been directed by the Legislature and Governor to administer grants totaling \$150,000 for the 2001-2003 biennium to encourage programs providing high-quality, accessible, and affordable child care for students attending public baccalaureate institutions; and

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board staff prepared and circulated a Request for Proposals to all the public baccalaureate institutions, and invited proposals from each institution; and

WHEREAS, Grant requests were received by three institutions: Central Washington University, The Evergreen State College, and Washington State University; and

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board staff and external experts representing child care organizations have evaluated the grant proposals and recommend funding a grant in the requested amount to Central Washington University, and continuing the review of grant proposals for the remaining funds available;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Coordinating Board approves a grant to Central Washington University in the amount of \$69,000, and directs HECB staff to release the funding upon the execution by the executive director of an inter-agency agreement spelling out the terms of the grant process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That HECB staff is directed to continue review of the two remaining grant proposals and bring recommendations to the board for consideration at the December 2001 meeting.

Adopted:

October 30, 2001

Attest:

Bob Craves, Chair

Gay Selby, Vice Chair